



MaineCare Services

An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

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DATE: January 22, 2008

TO: Hospital Directors of Pharmacy
CFOs
Patient Account Managers

FROM: Anthony Marple, Director, MaineCare Services

SUBJECT: National Drug Code

On December 10, 2007 we wrote informing you of a new regulation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid requiring Medicaid programs to collect National Drug Code (NDC) drug product codes on hospital outpatient claims for a list of 20 drugs published by the US Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. As you may recall, the purpose of this rule is to ensure that MaineCare and other state Medicaid programs are collecting federally mandated drug rebates on hospital issued drugs. This requirement was to have gone into effect for claims submitted after December 31, 2007. I am pleased to inform you that MaineCare has applied for and received a six-month postponement of this requirement. However, we will still be required to collect NDC codes for claims submitted after June 30, 2008.

As indicated in the December 10 letter, we plan to collect this information by requiring that hospitals submit a quarterly listing or roster of the top 20 drugs. The first roster will contain claims submitted between July 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008 and must be submitted to MaineCare no later than December 31, 2008. Thereafter, rosters must be submitted quarterly no later than three calendar months after the close of each quarter.

We expect that MaineCare will have a new claims processing system effective January 1, 2010. At that time we will require that NDC codes be submitted as part of your normal UB04 claims submissions.

If you have any comments or questions, please call MaineCare Provider Relations at 1-800-321-5557, Option 8. Once again, we appreciate your cooperation.

cc: Brenda Harvey, Commissioner, DHHS
Dr. Roderick Prior, Medical Director, MCS
Norman Curtis, Director, Provider/Member Services
David Winslow, Maine Hospital Association